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WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1906.

The Florida State Horticultural Society.

The nineteenth annual meeting has adjourned. We feel very sorry for those who were prevented, by circumstances beyond their control, from being present. We take it for granted that not one of you remained away from indifference or lack of interest.

It is not possible to please every one, therefore we presume that some have gone away dissatisfied. But we feel sure that a large majority of those who attended the sessions, will agree that it was a pleasant and profitable meeting. The addresses were eminently practical and treated of subjects of vital importance to the horticulturists of the state. We intend to print a few of these papers in the Agriculturist for the benefit of our readers. We hope that the reading of these papers will so whet up our appetite, for more of the same kind, that you will send one dollar to the secretary Mr. E. O. Painter, Jacksonville, and thus secure a copy of the proceedings, which will contain not only all the papers read but also a full stenographic report of the interesting discussions which followed. We wish to urge another reason why you should do this. The society is doing a great work for the good of all residents of the state. But it is very much hampered by lack of funds. At the close of the meeting, there remained on hand, in the treasury, only \$276, while the cost of printing and mailing the reports with some other necessary expenses, will amount to nearly or quite \$700. One dollar is a small sum to you, but if each one of

you will send that dollar to the secretary, the treasury will soon be full and all expenses provided for.

A brief synopsis of the proceedings may be of general interest. The meeting, on Tuesday evening, May 1st at 8 o'clock P. M. was called to order by the Pres., Mr. C. T. McCartney. After the opening prayer, by Rev. Dr. Hobson, the address of welcome on behalf of the city of Jacksonville, was made by Hon. D. U. Fletcher, on account of Mayor Nolan being sick and unable to be present. Following Mr. Fletcher, Capt. Garner welcomed us, on behalf of the Board of Trade, in his usual hearty and felicitous manner. Mr. G. L. Taber, ex-president, responded on behalf of the society. The president's address was next in order, and was listened to with the close attention which it so well deserved. You have already had an opportunity to read it for yourselves.

Mr. Geo. W. Wilson, of the Times-Union, was to have given an address at this session but was sick and unable to be present. In place of this address, Capt. R. E. Rose, State Chemist, read his paper on Florida Immigration, What Shall It Be?, which had been put on the program for Thursday. We shall give Capt. Rose's address in full and you can then enjoy it for yourself.

We are day morning, the first thing on the program was an address on Nematode Diseases, by Dr. E. A. Bossey, Pathologist in charge of the Sub-tropical Laboratory at Miami. Some of you may not remember the name Nematode and so not know what the address was about. When we say that the much dreaded root-knot of the peach tree is caused by a Nematode, you will understand the importance of the subject. We shall give this paper in full at an early date.

After the address came the report of the standing committee on Citrus fruits, which was followed by considerable discussion of the subject by different members.

The report of the standing committee on Diseases, Insects and Methods of Control, elicited still more interest and discussion. The subject of the ravages of the White-fly was discussed quite fully. Mr. F. D. Waite, of Palmetto, exhibited some specimens of the Manatee snail, which he has found to be able and willing, if allowed a chance, to entirely destroy the sooty mould caused by the White-fly and to leave the foliage and fruit as bright and glossy as could be desired. Wednesday afternoon session opened with an address by Prof. P. H. Rolfs, Director of the Florida Experiment Station, on The Experiment Station Cooperative Work. Next came the report of the standing committee on Peaches, Plums and Pears. The report, however, was entirely confined to Peaches. Indisputable evidence was produced showing that the business of growing peaches for northern markets may be made very profitable and that the demand is likely to exceed the supply for many years to come.

The report of the standing committee on Grapes, Figs and Kaki, brought out considerable discussion. One member made a strong plea for the use of the name Persimmon instead of Kaki. His argument was that persimmon is English and is known in northern market while kaki is not.

The Question box became quite a

prominent and important feature. Many pertinent and interesting questions were asked. Some were easily answered, while others, as might be expected, were not answerable by any one, at least not satisfactorily.

Wednesday evening, we were to have had an address by Dr. A. T. Woods, Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. But for some reason the Doctor did not get to the meeting and we missed the address.

The report of the standing committee on Pineapples and Other Tropical Fruits was next in order. Prof. P. H. Rolfs read an interesting descriptive paper on Other Tropical Fruits aside from pineapples. His words, we have no doubt, excited an interest in the subject which will lead to the planting of many more mangoes, sapadilloes etc. At the close of his address, Prof. Blair of Florida State University read half of his paper, Some Notes on Pineapple Experiments at Jensen. These notes were of great interest and importance to pineapple growers and incidentally to all others who use commercial fertilizers. Soon after 8 o'clock the society adjourned and went in a body to the Board of Trade rooms where we were pleasantly entertained for two hours or more with a concert given by the Ladies Friday Musicales.

Thursday morning Prof. Blair finished reading his paper after which the standing committee on Fertilizers and Irrigation made a very full report, there being four written papers, some of them quite long and all interesting and valuable. Following the report was a lively discussion of the fertilizer question. Major G. P. Healy stated that he had restored his grove, killed down by the freeze, to a bearing condition without a pound of commercial fertilizer, simply by growing beggar-weed, velvet beans etc. Other members did not approve of this method and instances were reported where the continuous use of these crops, in a grove, had proved to be quite injurious.

The committee on Nut Culture also made very full reports, each member presenting one in writing. All seemed confident that there is a great future in store for the Pecan industry.

The afternoon session opened with a paper on the Geology of Florida in Relation to its Artesian Water Supply, by Prof. E. H. Sellards of Lake City.

The election of officers came next in order. President McCarty was unanimously reelected. Prof. P. H. Rolfs, Mr. Sampson and F. D. Waite were elected vice-presidents. The secretary, Mr. E. O. Painter, and Mr. W. S. Hart, the treasurer, were unanimously reelected. The Executive Committee voted to fill the place of Rev. Lyman who was also reelected, except that Mr. Phelps who has been prevented, by sickness, from attending any of the meetings for several years. Following O. W. Conner of Tangerine, was elected the election of officers, it was decided that the next meeting should be held at St. Petersburg that city receiving a large majority of all the votes cast. A brief report from the committee on Strawberries was then read. The committee on Vegetables did not make any report. The Question box finished up the afternoon session.

The evening session began with the reading of the reports from the committee on Ornamentals, both of which

will be found in the Department of Ornamental Horticulture, one next week and the other the next week. The Ad-interim committee on New Fruits and Nomenclature and also the committee on Legislation offered no report.

The committee on resolutions presented some resolutions which were unanimously adopted after which the Society adjourned.

Fire From Lightning.

Elsewhere you will find an article, from the Ohio Farmer, giving some statistics of the losses from fire caused by lightning in the state of Ohio. The same paper also contained a long article in lightning and lightning conductors. The writer does not claim to be an expert authority on rodding buildings but, thinks that he can write with some authority on account of having studied the subject quite extensively.

About the only new thing in his article is the advice to surround the building with a cage of wire, not only wires up and down from the peak of the roof to the ground, but also horizontal wires going around the building, one at the eaves one near the ground and another midway between, all to be securely joined to the perpendicular wires by first winding, at the crossing, with smaller wires and then soldering. The wires to be connected with all metal roofing, water spouts, etc. The wires must go deeply into the earth and should be attached to some large piece of metal, plow points, old copper bottom to boiler or something similar. There is no doubt that this would add to the security of the buildings by lessening the danger from lightning. Whether it would be profitable or not is another question. We believe in lightning rods, but they are a much more simple matter than is generally supposed. A continuous strip of galvanized hoop iron that will reach from a point a few feet above the roof down to moist earth, the water in a well is the very best place to ground the conductor. If that is not possible, then see that it reaches to permanently moist soil, if the end is wrapped around an old plow point or similar piece of iron so much the better. If the building is large there should be at least two of the points above the roof, though they may be connected and reach the earth by one strip. There is no need of any insulation, nail the strip to the roof and sides of the house. If there are any eave troughs be sure that they are also connected with the conductor.

These precautions will render your buildings reasonably safe from danger of damage from lightning.

Truckers Prosperous.

So far the season has been a good one for gardeners and fruit growers. Florida cabbage, celery and lettuce have brought good prices in market, and the crops have mostly been large enough to render the growers profitable returns. Strawberries have been turning out very well and prices have held up remarkably.

The Irish potato crop is good and returns excellent. On the whole, our citizens have nothing to complain of so far. We trust that the tomato and pineapple crops will do as well or better.